

Serial No. 10/575,557

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Examiner: Phong Son H. Dang**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) An applicator ~~or other surgical applicators, said applicator~~ comprising a barrel portion and a handle portion attached to the barrel portion thereto, said barrel portion comprising means for holding a surgical clip and said handle portion comprising trigger means, said trigger means being operative to effect closure of a surgical clip held within said barrel portion by movement of said trigger means from a first position to a second position, at which second position said applicator is operative to effect closure of said clip, and in which said trigger means is provided with a visual indicator means indicative of an intermediate trigger position, at which intermediate position said surgical clip held in said barrel portion is closed to a half part closed position, said visual indicator means defining an elongate visual indicator line that extends a substantial distance over the trigger means to provide a visual indication even when the trigger means is being gripped by one or more of the digits of a users hand.
2. (Original) An applicator as claimed in claim 1, in which said visual indicator means comprises an indentation on said trigger means.
3. (Original) An applicator as claimed in claim 1, in which said visual indicator means comprises a reduced section of said trigger means.
4. (Original) An applicator as claimed in claim 1, in which said visual indicator means comprises groove means in said trigger means.
5. (Currently Amended) An applicator as claimed in claim 4, in which said groove means may comprise comprises means for engaging with a removable stop means, said removable stop

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means being co-operative with a portion of said handle portion to prevent movement of said trigger means past a predetermined position.

6. (Original) An applicator as claimed in claim 5, in which said groove means is present on both sides of said trigger means.

7. (Original) An applicator as claimed in claim 6, in which said stop means comprises a U shaped member which is designed in a first locking position to sit within said groove means and to protrude from said groove means to form said stop means.

8. (Original) An applicator as claimed in claim 7, in which said U shaped member comprises spring steel or similar material ensuring secure engagement with said groove means.

9. (Original) An applicator as claimed in claim 8, in which said U shaped member comprises means for gripping by a surgeon to effect removal of said U shaped member from said trigger means enabling movement of said trigger means past said predetermined position.

10. (Currently Amended) An applicator as claimed in claim 1, in which the trigger means comprises two or more ~~colours~~ colors arranged to identify a specific position of the trigger means.

11. (Original) An applicator as claimed in claim 1 in which the handle portion includes a recess, the trigger means being pivotally mounted within said handle portion to be moveable within said recess when said trigger means is operated and in which the trigger means is dimensioned to have minimal clearance between itself and the recess edges over substantially the whole pivotal movement of the trigger means.

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12. (Original) An applicator as claimed in claim 11 in which the visual indicator means is provided by a change in surface texture at a defined position across the trigger means.

13. (Original) An applicator as claimed in claim 12 in which trigger means provides a feedback pressure as a clip is being moved from an open to a half closed position this feedback pressure providing a tactile sense to the surgeon which when combined with the visual indication provides additional information on the position of the clip.

14. (Currently Amended) An applicator comprising a handle portion and a barrel portion, said barrel portion having gripping means at a distal end from said handle portion for gripping an object in which said handle portion include a trigger means operative to move into and out of a main body portion of said handle portion and being operative to move said gripping means to grip an object and in which said trigger means is provided with a visual indication means indicator line that extends a substantial distance over the trigger indicating a defined intermediate position of said trigger means, said visual indicator line defined by indication means comprising a change in surface texture at a defined intermediate position, said surface texture change being dimensioned such that the clearance between the trigger means and said main body portion is minimal, thereby removing the possibility of snagging surgical gloves on movement of the trigger means.

15. (Currently Amended) A medical appliance comprising: a barrel portion; a handle portion; said barrel portion including a holder for a surgical clip; said handle portion including a trigger that is operative to effect closure of the surgical clip from a first position to a second position; said trigger in said second position effecting full closure of the surgical clip; said trigger having a visual indicator defined by an elongate visual indicator line that extends a substantial

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distance over a visual surface of the trigger and that is representative of an intermediate trigger position between said first and second positions; said trigger at said intermediate position maintaining said surgical clip at a partially closed position, said handle portion includes a recess, the trigger being pivotally mounted within the handle portion to extend through said recess for access by a surgeon.

16. (Original) A medical appliance as claimed in claim 15, in which said visual indicator comprises an indentation on said trigger.

17. (Original) A medical appliance as claimed in claim 15, in which said visual indicator comprises a reduced section of said trigger.

18. (Currently Amended) A medical appliance as claimed in claim 15, in which said visual indicator comprises a groove and in said trigger.

19. (Original) A medical appliance as claimed in claim 15, in which said visual indicator is defined by two or more colors arranged to identify a specific position of the trigger.

20. (Currently Amended) A medical appliance as claimed in claim 15, in which the handle portion includes a recess, the trigger being pivotally mounted within the handle portion to be movable within the recess when the trigger is operated and in which the trigger is dimensioned to have a minimal clearance with the an edge defining the recess.

21. (New) A medical appliance as claimed in claim 15 wherein the visual indicator line extends in a direction between a pivot of the handle portion and a base end of the trigger.

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22. (New) A medical appliance as claimed in claim 21 wherein the trigger provides a visual indication even when the trigger is being gripped by one or more of the digits of a user's hand.

23. (New) A medical appliance as claimed in claim 15 wherein said visual indicator line is defined by a change in thickness of the trigger.

24. (New) A medical appliance comprising:

a barrel;

a handle;

said barrel including a distal holder for a surgical clip;

said handle including a trigger that is operative to effect closure of the surgical clip from a first position to a second position;

said trigger in said second position effecting full closure of the surgical clip;

said trigger having a visual indicator line that extends over a visual surface of the trigger and that is illustrative of an intermediate trigger position between said first and second positions;

said trigger at said intermediate position maintaining said surgical clip at a partially closed position;

said handle includes an elongated recess;

said trigger being pivotally mounted within the handle to be movable within the recess when the trigger is operated;

and an elongated removable stop member that is selectively engageable with said visual indicator line and co-operative with an outer surface of said handle to prevent movement of said trigger past a predetermined position.

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25. (New) A medical appliance as claimed in claim 24 wherein the visual indicator line extends a substantial distance over the visual surface of the trigger and extends in a direction between a pivot of the handle and a base end of the trigger.

26. (New) A medical appliance as claimed in claim 24 wherein the visual indicator line is defined by at least one elongated groove for receiving the elongated removable stop member.

27. (New) A medical appliance as claimed in claim 26 including a pair of elongated grooves on respective opposed sides of the trigger.

28. (New) A medical appliance as claimed in claim 27 wherein the elongated removable stop member comprises a U-shaped member having legs that are engaged in respective grooves, said U-shaped member including means for gripping by a user to effect removal of said U-shaped member from said trigger to enable movement of said trigger past said predetermined position.

29. (New) A medical appliance as claimed in claim 24 wherein the visual indicator line is defined by groove means for receiving the elongated removable stop member, said elongated removable stop member having an engaged position that enables movement of said trigger but prevents movement of said trigger past said predetermined position, and a removed position that enables the trigger to move past said predetermined position.

30. (New) A medical appliance as claimed in claim 24 wherein the visual indicator line extends in a direction between a pivot of the handle and a base end of the trigger, and the indicator line is visualized in comparison to a handle elongated surface defined about the elongated recess, the remaining visual length of indicator line being a measure of the degree of depression of the trigger, and correspondingly the degree of closure at the surgical clip.